

Federal Special**DP-31 Federal Grant Award Adjustment**

FY2008 \$865,012

FY2009 \$901,966

This request increases federal spending authority by \$865,012 in FY08 and \$901,966 in FY09. The adjustments in federal grant awards are due to normal increases in federal funding. These funds are used to support the administration of current federal grants and to provide technical assistance to school districts and other local education agencies. The funding sources are shown on page E-9 of the LFD Analysis.

There are 10.0 FTE associated with this request. Nine of these positions are currently filled. Six are modified level FTE in the 2007 biennium; two are in current level positions that we are overfilling, one is in a current level position that is temporarily vacant, and one is new. I would like to give you some background on why OPI is requesting that these positions be continued permanently.

4.0 FTE Part-time Employees for Training and School Support Teams

For many years, OPI has relied on educators in the field, often retired educators, to provide training to school personnel. Our agency contracted with many individuals to provide training for the Montana Behavioral Initiative, HIV education, and the interpretation of assessment results. Legislative changes approved in the 2003 session clarified and codified the distinction between independent contractors and employees. As a result, individuals who perform work for OPI in the schools, and would have in the past been independent contractors, are now placed in employee positions. In general, the work duties have not changed, but the employment relationship has. Of the 10 positions OPI is requesting in this decision package, 4.0 FTE are for very part-time employees.

1.0 FTE 12 MBI Trainers

1.0 FTE 6 HIV Trainers

1.0 FTE (modified level) 8 school support team leaders

1.0 FTE (modified level) 40 school support team members

1.0 FTE (Modified level) School Support Team Specialist

The federal Title I Program under No Child Left Behind requires the state education agency to provide assistance to schools identified as in Need of Improvement. (These are schools that have not made adequate yearly progress as defined by NCLB and are our lowest performing schools in Reading and Math.). OPI has designed a school support system to assist schools that includes school visits and evaluations by teams of educators. In addition to the part-time positions that we are requesting, OPI has hired an additional 1.0 FTE specialist to oversee the school support teams and work with the team leaders.

1.0 FTE (Modified level) Assessment Coordinator

The demands under No Child Left Behind for accountability through assessment have required OPI to contract for the administration of an English Language Proficiency assessment for Montana's 9,000 LEP students. Up until November, OPI had only one

position dedicated to student assessment. Our State Assessment director is responsible for the statewide administration of the criterion-referenced test required under the accountability provisions of NCLB, the norm-referenced test required by the Board of Public Education, and now the English Language Proficiency test also required under NCLB. I'd like to direct your attention to the Apple sheet on student assessment to review the responsibilities of that work unit. Last summer OPI requested and was granted a modified level 1.0 FTE to assist in the student assessment area and in November of 2006 hired this position. We are asking to make this critical modified level 1.0 FTE position permanent.

1.0 FTE (Modified level) Measurement and Accountability Administrator

Last session, the legislature funded OPI's request for K-12 education data systems and authorized 4.0 FTE to implement the system. Two of these FTE positions were added to OPI's Measurement and Accountability unit. The supervisor of that unit had been both the NAEP specialist and the supervisor for the unit. With the significant expansion of the work unit's duties, OPI requested and was granted a modified level FTE, so that we could hire a NAEP specialist and make the supervisory position into a separate position, which oversees the development of the AIM - Achievement in Montana system and supervises the analysis of assessment data for reporting Adequate Yearly Progress under NCLB and reporting results of the Iowa tests required by the Board of Public Education.

1.0 FTE (Modified level) Veteran's Education specialist

OPI applied for and received a grant to support providers of Veteran's Education services. To implement the grant OPI has hired a veteran's education specialist.

1.0 FTE (Vacant) Special Education Professional Development

OPI applied for and received a competitive grant from the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education for a grant to strengthen professional development opportunities for teachers. The purpose of the grant is to develop an infrastructure that will support a coordinated comprehensive system of professional development, technical assistance and information dissemination delivery. The grant award is for \$650,000/year for 5 years. We have hired 1.0 FTE to implement the grant and request authorization for the grant and the FTE position.

1.0 FTE (New) Adult Basic and Literacy Education Specialist

This position is to provide technical assistance to Adult Basic Education centers. One of the areas identified in our last compliance visit from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education was the need for our state to provide more professional development and technical assistance to the ABE centers. A report from their visit strongly encouraged the OPI to seek an additional staff member to help the state meet their identified goals. Funding for the position would come from the leadership portion of our Adult Education federal grant. The additional FTE will provide statewide professional development and develop a statewide program improvement strategy using currently collected data.